

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An appliance for styling hair comprising:
  - 2 a handle portion and a styling portion;
  - 3 a programmable electronic control for electronically controlling at least one
  - 4 operational feature of the appliance; and
  - 5 a control panel having at least one input mechanism to set the at least one operational
  - 6 feature of the appliance; and
  - 7 a display screen to indicate the operational status of the at least one operational
  - 8 feature of the appliance, wherein the display screen is located on the handle portion of the
  - 9 appliance.
- 1 2. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a curling iron.
- 1 3. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a styling iron.
- 1 4. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a hair dryer.
- 1 5. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a flat iron.
- 1 6. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a crimping iron.
- 1 7. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the hair styling appliance is a spiral iron.
- 1 8. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the programmable electronic control includes a
  - 2 memory function to recall the last setting.
- 1 9. The appliance of claim 8 wherein the programmable electronic control includes a battery.
- 1 10. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the input mechanism comprises one or more buttons.
- 1 11. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the input mechanism comprises a dial.
- 1 12. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the input mechanism comprises a switch.
- 1 13. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the input mechanism comprises a touch pad.

- 1 14. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the at least one operational feature comprises a  
2 temperature setting.
- 1 15. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the at least one operational feature comprises a sleep  
2 mode.
- 1 16. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the at least one operational feature comprises a last-  
2 setting-recall mode.
- 1 17. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the at least one operational feature comprises a locking  
2 mode.
- 1 18. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the display screen is a liquid crystal display (LCD)  
2 device.
- 1 19. The appliance of claim 1 wherein the display screen is a light emitting diode (LED)  
2 device.
- 1 20. An appliance for styling hair comprising:  
2 a programmable logic control that controls the output temperature of the appliance;  
3 and  
4 a control panel having an input mechanism that selects the desired output temperature  
5 of the appliance; and  
6 an electronic display screen to indicate the output temperature of the appliance.
- 1 21. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a curling iron.
- 1 22. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a styling iron.
- 1 23. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a hair dryer.
- 1 24. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a flat iron.
- 1 25. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a crimping iron.

- 1 26. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a spiral iron.
- 1 27. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the hair styling appliance is a hair-setting tool.
- 1 28. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the programmable logic control comprises memory.
- 1 29. The appliance of claim 28 wherein the programmable logic control circuit comprises a  
2 battery.
- 1 30. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the programmable logic control controls at least one  
2 operational feature of the appliance in addition to temperature.
- 1 31. The appliance of claim 30 wherein the display screen indicates the status of the at least  
2 one additional operational feature of the appliance.
- 1 32. The appliance of claim 20 wherein the display screen is an LCD device.
- 1 33. The appliance of claim 17 wherein the display screen is an LED device.
- 1 34. An appliance for styling hair comprising:  
2 a programmable electronic control that electronically controls the output temperature  
3 of the appliance;  
4 a control panel having at least one input mechanism that sets the desired output  
5 temperature of the appliance; and  
6 an LCD screen that indicates the output temperature of the appliance.
- 1 35. The appliance of claim 34 wherein the programmable electronic control includes  
2 memory.
- 1 36. The appliance of claim 34 wherein the programmable electronic control comprises a  
2 battery.
- 1 37. The appliance of claim 34 wherein the programmable electronic control controls at least  
2 one operational parameter in addition to temperature.

- 1 38. The appliance of claim 37 wherein the at least one additional operational parameter is a  
2 sleep mode, a last-setting-recall mode, or a locking mode.
- 1 39. The appliance of claim 37 wherein the LCD screen indicates the status of the at least one  
2 operational parameter.